

**TIPTON**  
**Urban District Council.**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**  
OF THE  
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**  
AND  
**SCHOOL INSPECTOR,**

A. S. UNDERHILL, M.D., D.P.H.,

For the Year 1908,

WITH  
**Supplementary Reports**

BY  
C. H. CLIFTON, C.S.I., A.R.S.I.,  
*(Inspector of Nuisances),*

AND  
WM. H. JUKES, C.E.,  
*(Surveyor).*

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# Tipton Urban District Council.

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## 33<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## Medical Officer of Health,

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*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Tipton Urban District Council.*

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GREAT BRIDGE,

*January, 1909.*

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my 33rd annual report, to which is appended a supplementary report by Mr. Jukes, our surveyor, and Mr. Clifton, our Sanitary Inspector.

Tipton is essentially a manufacturing district, and few people use it as a place of residence. The class of houses above the working class house is inhabited principally by managers, clerks, professional men and others, who live here for the convenience of their business, consequently the major portion of the inhabitants are more or less of a migratory nature, the variation in their number being dependent upon the requirements of the manufacturers in the district.

For the past two years there has been a decided influx of

inhabitants, and I have calculated that during the greater part of this year we have had 33,000 inhabitants, a decided increase over the census of the previous years in which I have been Medical Officer of Health.

In 1871	the census was	29,428
In 1881	„ „ „	30,013
In 1891	„ „ „	30,503

During the year 60 houses have been built and 15 houses have been closed as no longer tenantable, the estimated number of houses inhabited during the year is 7,304.

There have been numerous complaints about the insanitary condition of the Brook Course in Great Bridge, the water at times has been dark coloured from the presence of sewage matter, the smell has been intolerable, and has formed a condition detrimental to the health of the residents who live in close proximity to the stream. It is true that the notification of infectious diseases returns do not show any evidence of any specific disease that could in any way be attributed to this cause, but it is quite possible that minor septic troubles, such as diarrhœa and sore throats might be caused by such foul emanations. The condition of the stream and its amelioration has been frequently discussed at the meetings of the Sanitary Committee, but action has been handicapped by the fact that at least two of our neighbours are contributing to the pollution of the stream to a much greater extent than we are. Steps are being taken by them to lessen the nuisance, and we feel confident that these, in conjunction with definite sanitary improvements on our part, will so far purify the stream that there will be no longer any cause for complaint. (See special report by Mr. Jukes, the surveyor.) Many of the statements that have been made are much exaggerated, and are calculated to unnecessarily disturb the confidence of people who do business in the place.

We have had an unfortunate outbreak of typhoid fever in Horsley Heath in a district crowded with old small houses and tenanted by the very poorest residents in the district. This has, however, led to very great improvements in the



sanitary condition of the houses in this area, some have been closed, w.c.'s have taken the place of middens, more air has been given round the houses, the drainage has been improved, window sashes have been made to open, the general cleanliness has been improved, and overcrowding has been prevented. I think that now all immediate danger of the disease spreading is over and that we may consider the outbreak as ended.

**Female labour** is but little used. A few women are employed on the breeze banks and a few in the foundries where small articles of hardware are manufactured, but the number is so few that it does not in any way militate against the proper home occupations of women. There is an abundant supply of good **working men's houses** at a very low rental, but unfortunately two small living rooms too often take the place of the one good large kitchen that was formerly met with. The great objection to many of the more newly built houses is the too close proximity of the ashpit and midden to the living room. We are trying slowly to introduce the movable ashpan, and to convert the midden into the water closet system. When the new sewers are laid down we hope to gradually convert all of the middens so that the air around the living rooms will be much more pure than it is at present.

The Water Supply is from the mains of the South Staffordshire Waterworks, collected mainly from the Lichfield district. This is abundant, pure, and cheap. There are a few wells, but the supply from these is usually impure. So much of the under surface of the ground is broken up by mining subsidences that it is practically impossible to prevent percolation from the surface, hence the impurity of all water from local supplies. The water from the mains is somewhat hard and has but little plumbo solvent action.

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#### MILK SUPPLY.

The bulk of the milk supplied is imported from portions of Staffordshire and Derbyshire. Much more milk is used now

than was the case formerly, and as a rule the milk is good and wholesome. There are no regular dairies where cheese, cream, or butter is made. The condition of many of the **cowsheds** leaves much to be desired, and I have often found the sheds overcrowded and the cows dirty. Fifty cowsheds are registered. One cowshed has been closed during the year, and the proprietors of two others have been threatened that unless the sanitary condition of their cowsheds is improved steps will be taken to revoke the licences.

There are 40 **milk shops** registered. These are all systematically inspected by the Sanitary Inspector, and most of them I have personally inspected. I have not known of any tuberculous milk, nor have I seen any milch cows that would be likely to give tuberculous milk.

There are two **markets**, one at Great Bridge and one at Tipton. The food exposed for sale is examined by the Sanitary Inspector, who calls my attention to any suspected food. We do not have any trouble, the purveyors destroy the food when requested to do so. We find that buyers do not hesitate to complain to me or to the Sanitary Inspector if they think that food sold to them is unsound. There are 24 **slaughter-houses** registered and licensed in the district. These are regularly inspected, and as a rule they fulfil the necessary requirements of the Council bye-laws and are satisfactory. During the year one slaughterhouse has been licensed, but none are now registered. They are licensed and have to renew their licences yearly.

**The sewerage and drainage system** is in course of renovation, and within the next twelve months I hope that the parish will be entirely re-sewered, the present sewers being then mainly used for storm water. (See Surveyor's report.) At present much of the sewerage and drainage is insufficient and unsanitary. The new system, with its filter beds and their extension at Toll End will, I expect, fulfil all reasonable requirements. Some portions must be left incomplete until the subsidences have settled down, but this will be only a matter of time.

**The disposal of excrement** is a great trouble, the system at present in use is the privy cesspit, separate from ashes, system. The Council have their own carts and men, and the whole removal is under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. This is done systematically. Some of the excrement is laid in "tips" situated in suitable places in the parish, and some is exported in boats to the country. We hope, however, to be able to extend the water carriage system as soon as the deep sewers are in working order.

**House refuse** is placed on open ashpits, and is removed in scavengers' carts by men and horses entirely under the control of the Council. There are a few house bins, and these are encouraged where their use is considered advisable. At each meeting of the Sanitary Committee the Sanitary Inspector reports upon the number of ashpits and cesspits emptied, and the number of houses which such report represents.

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## HOSPITAL.

The hospital for infectious diseases plays an important part in our means for stamping out disease. No one is refused admission. If very poor and receiving relief, the Guardians pay for their treatment, if better off but not able to pay they are admitted and no charge is made, if really well to do, they are expected to contribute something towards their maintenance when in the hospital. For very many years I have been Medical Superintendent, and visit the hospital daily when there are in-patients which require such attention. We have accommodation for twenty beds, which gives an air space of 1,500 cubic feet per bed. This accommodation is ample for the requirements of the district. Our great difficulty is to provide separate accommodation for scarlatina and typhoid fever for males and females when under treatment at the same time. There are, however, two large and two small wards, and hitherto we have managed without much inconvenience. We find but little difficulty in persuading patients to consent to removal, and



all seem to be well satisfied. During the year the wards have been renovated, and at present the hospital is in a high state of efficiency.

Cases under treatment during the past six years:—

SCARLATINA.								TYPHOID FEVER.							
	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908.		1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908.
January ...	3	6	8	2	5	0	0	...	0	0	1	0	2	1	1
February ...	10	9	8	3	0	2	1	...	2	0	0	0	0	0	1
March ...	0	15	6	1	3	12	0	...	6	2	1	0	0	0	0
April ...	5	11	5	0	1	9	8	...	5	0	0	2	0	0	0
May ...	5	12	7	1	0	7	4	...	2	1	6	2	1	3	0
June ...	1	11	3	0	0	2	1	...	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
July ...	4	14	2	0	2	2	0	...	0	0	0	1	2	0	1
August ...	0	21	7	0	9	2	8	...	0	0	8	8	0	0	3
September	21	7	3	0	0	5	0	...	0	0	2	5	14	0	0
October ...	13	19	1	3	1	1	5	...	0	0	3	0	1	1	9
November	14	5	0	2	5	1	2	...	2	0	3	1	5	0	6
December	13	5	1	4	8	1	4	...	0	5	3	2	8	6	3
	89	135	51	16	25	44	33		17	8	28	22	33	11	24

1908.—Scarlatina: Admitted, 30; discharged cured, 22; died, 3.

1908.—Typhoid Fever: Admitted, 24; discharged cured, 20; died, 2.

	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908
Cases admitted during the year	105	136	99	40	65	44	54
Discharged cured	82	132	74	38	48	42	42
Died	7	4	4	8	7	2	5
Now under treatment	10	7	1	7	10	3	7

It should be noted that of the deaths from typhoid fever one man, from a most insanitary court, died four days after admission. The second was a woman 66 years of age who had recently been suffering from a severe attack of bronchitis and never rallied. Of the fatal cases of Scarlatina, one child died in a fit six days after admission, three died from throat complications, and one died from gangrene of the mouth. During the year the hospital has only been empty for thirteen days.

#### INFANTILE MORTALITY.

On referring to Table V. it will be noticed that there have been 137 deaths registered of infants under one year of age, which gives 119 deaths for every 1,000 births. Of these 37 have been infants under one week old and 53 under one



month, 22 have been cases of premature birth, and 12 have been from the wasting disorders so often associated with infancy. Of these, however, 8 were under one month old, 32 have been from intestinal disorders associated with diarrhoea, and 10 from causes directly due to imperfections before birth. Last year the total number of deaths registered under one year of age was 121. With the exception of a few of the deaths from diarrhoea it is impossible to give any general reason for the infantile mortality rate, practically every mother who is able does nurse her infant. Very few mothers work away from their homes. No houses are kept so dirty as to make any appreciable difference to the death rate, mothers are kind to their children, house accommodation is cheap and ample, the water supply is good, and I know of no area in the district where the hygienic conditions are such as to preclude the possibility of rearing children. The number of births is 1,150. I can only hope that the advent of the Queen's Nurses, and the more scientific help available from the Nurses' Institution in cases of confinement will in time make our infantile mortality rate lower. It is expected that as the old midwives die out practically all the midwife cases in the poorer districts will be conducted by properly trained and certificated midwives, supported in cases of emergency by qualified medical men. *The Notification of Births Act, 1907*, in relation to infant mortality, has not been adopted in the district, but probably it will be so when its usefulness is more generally recognised.

## ENGLAND AND WALES AND TIPTON ANNUAL BIRTH RATES AND DEATH RATES.

### ANNUAL BIRTH RATES AND DEATH RATES.

	Annual Rate per 1000 Living.		Deaths under one year to 1000 living
	Births.	Deaths.	
England and Wales ...	26·5	14·7	121
76 Great Towns ... ..	27·0	14·9	128
142 Smaller Towns ...	26·0	14·0	124
England and Wales— less the 218 Towns	26·2	14·7	110
Tipton ... ..	<del>25·5</del> 34·8	14·3	119

**Lodging Houses.**—We have practically only one lodging house. Single men, as a rule, live in the houses of their fellow workmen and very early get married. The bye-laws have been recently amended and are sufficient for their purpose.

**Offensive Processes of Trade.**—One of these has caused much annoyance to the residents around the works, and a great nuisance has been caused. The case is now under consideration. I have several times inspected the works. A promise has been made that certain alterations should be carried out, and if these alterations do not remove the nuisance that an expert is to be called in to further advise. The proprietors state their readiness to carry out any reasonable requirements of the Council.

**Offal Boiling and Fish Frying** are both more or less offensive at times and require constant supervision. Complaints have been made about the nuisance arising from a horse slaughterer's place of business, but so far I have not been able to obtain any definite and supported testimony of any real nuisance having arisen from this cause. There is a candle manufactory and a soap manufactory. Of these I have had no complaints. Our bye-laws are sufficiently ample to deal with any complaints that may arise. Sugar boiling, for the manufacture of sweets, is also carried on in three places. I have had complaints of a nuisance arising from one of these. The proprietor is now moving into more commodious premises, with modern appliances to take away the smoke and steam.

During the year I have inspected the **Public Elementary Schools**. The sanitary condition of these leaves much to be desired, and will call for a more detailed report in the future. I have inspected one school with H.M. inspector, who made full notes of its condition. All of the schools have a good water supply from the mains, have sufficient w.c. accommodation, and are dry and watertight, and during the year all have been fumigated. Some of the schools are in splendid order, with good and sufficient light, air space, ventilation, and good sanitary surroundings, and in them attention is particularly paid to a sufficiency of warmth for the children. Only once have I had complaints

that the air was too cold for the children in the early morning. The routine method adopted for the **prevention of the spread of infectious disease** is commented on in my report as School Medical Officer, and I find that most of the teachers are careful, and fully appreciate the necessity for keeping from school any child suffering from infectious or contagious disease. In dealing with **means for the prevention of the spread of infectious disease** the routine method is for the Sanitary Inspector to visit the case when notified. If the accommodation for its treatment is not sufficient, and its continuance at home is a source of danger to others, he removes the case to the Isolation Hospital. This is done in an ambulance, and the hospital nurse goes in the ambulance, taking with her a proper supply of blankets, etc. If so desired, the patient can be medically attended by their own medical man when the patient is in the hospital. This is, however, but seldom done. After removal of the patient the house is disinfected under the supervision of the sanitary inspector, bedding or personal clothing, if destroyed of necessity, and where the patients are poor, is replaced by the Council. Leaflets are also left at the infected house, and general sanitary instructions are given by the Sanitary Inspector. Soap and disinfecting powder is supplied to the poor gratuitously, and a report is made as to the sanitary surroundings of the infected house.

In dealing with **Tuberculosis**, the Local Government Board have recently sent out a circular as to notification of cases of tuberculosis by their medical officers. This will come into force on January 1st, 1909, and will allow the Medical Officer of Health to treat with cases of tuberculosis as if they were infectious. No special hospital accommodation is provided for cases of pulmonary tuberculosis in this district. Those that are in a curative stage are admitted into the hospitals. A more liberal dietary is now allowed to Poor Law patients after notice is sent to the Relieving Officer by their Medical Officer. Deaths from pulmonary, or from any other form of tuberculosis, are not common. The high altitude of Tipton and the small amount of overcrowding tends towards a low death rate from these causes. In none of the works is the grindstone or emery,



wheel used to such an extent as to jeopardise those who are employed in the works. Nor are there any special employments in the district which would tend to cause tuberculosis or any disease of the lungs.

The Sanitary Inspector, at each meeting of the Sanitary Committee, reports the number of new nuisances that he has met with, and at intervals a list of those which have not been abated. Notice is duly sent out to those responsible for the nuisance by the clerk, and it is the duty of the Sanitary Inspector to serve the notices and to report when they are not duly carried out. When the nuisance is not abated, after a reasonable time he obtains from the Council permission to summon the offenders, and the nuisance is then abated under a magistrate's order. As a rule I report upon insanitary dwellings, bad and insufficient drainage, water supply, and general insanitary surroundings, and upon any conditions that are injurious to health and which have come under my observation during my periodical inspections as Medical Officer of Health. These reports are treated in the same manner as the reports by the Sanitary Inspector.

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#### FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT.

The Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Clifton, is the authorised Inspector under the above Act, and when necessary I have made inspections both with and without him. There are 130 workshops, 57 factories, and 5 workshops in the district, 192 inspections have been made, written notices have been served upon 14, and one prosecution has taken place. Twenty nuisances have been complained about after inspection, all of which have been remedied. Nine cases of want of suitable sanitary accommodation have been noted, 8 of which have been remedied by the owners after request, and one after prosecution. Twenty inspections of outworkers' premises have been made and been found more or less suitable. No case of overcrowding has been met with. In a few instances, when pressed for work, a temporary condition of overcrowding has been noted, but as a rule the provisions of the Act have been fairly carried out. The number of **bakehouses** on the register is 22. In some their sanitary condition leaves much to be desired. In the smaller bake-



houses it is difficult to prevent the occupiers from using their bakehouses as repositories for utensils not required in the trade. In many the tiles on the floor are broken and allow of the accumulation of dirt between the broken portions. As a rule the ovens are heated in the old fashioned way by live coal, thus necessarily causing the walls and ceiling of the bakehouse to look dirty. Whitewashing is usually done within the time stipulated, and no flagrant disregard of the bye-laws has been observed.

### NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year 180 cases of notifiable diseases have been reported, 48 have been from scarlatina, 30 of these were removed to the hospital. The number notified is the lowest recorded since the adoption of the Act. Forty-two cases of typhoid (enteric) fever were notified, and of these five were in one house; 24 were removed to the hospital. Forty-two cases of erysipelas were notified. I do not find that these notifications are of much service, most of the cases being so very mild. Forty-five cases of membranous croup and diphtheria were notified. Some of these were a portion of an outbreak of sore throats in the Dudley Port district, the cases were mild, none of them were verified by bacteriological examination. As, however, a question was raised about the possibility of an error in diagnosis I was invited by two medical men practising in the district to visit each case and form my own opinion as to the condition notified.

Table showing the cases of infectious diseases notified and their mortality.

	1901		1902		1903		1904		1905		1906		1907		1908	
	Noti- fied	Died	Noti- fied	Died	Noti- fied	Died	Noti- fied	Died	Noti- fied	Died	Noti- fied	Died	Noti- fied	Died	Noti- fied	Died
Scarlatina	68	2	418	28	352	10	141	0	59	0	58	1	72	1	48	3
Enteric Fever	28	2	48	9	24	7	52	10	52	6	54	16	41	9	42	7
Erysipelas	61	3	43	1	46	0	49	3	36	1	35	2	32	0	42	4
Membranous Croup and Diphtheria	54	4	25	0	28	4	34	10	36	9	36	8	20	0	45	1
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0	0	5	2	5	1	2	0	4	1	1	1	3	1
Smallpox	0	0	0	0	<sup>x</sup> 1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	211	11	534	38	456	23	284	24	185	16	187	28	166	11	180	16

<sup>x</sup>Diagnosis not confirmed.

## SCARLET FEVER.

During the year 48 cases have been notified; of these 30 have been removed to the hospital and 3 have died. At no time has there been an epidemic. We are practically never free from this disease. No cases were notified in January, July, and September; in August 8 cases were notified. The type of the disease has been severe. Each case is visited within a few hours of notification by the Sanitary Inspector, and immediate steps are taken for the removal of the patient to the hospital where there is no proper accommodation at the child's home, and disinfectants are freely used.

Number of deaths in past ten years.

1898 .....	5 deaths	1903 .....	10 deaths.
1899 .....	8 „	1904 .....	0 „
1900 .....	3 „	1905 .....	0 „
1901 .....	2 „	1906 .....	1 „
1902 .....	28 „	1907 .....	1 „

Average for previous 10 years 5.8 deaths.

1908 ..... 3 deaths.

	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908
Notified .....	418	352	141	59	58	72	48
Admitted into Hospital ...	80	132	51	16	22	46	30

## DIPHTHERIA AND MEMBRANEOUS CROUP.

During the year 43 cases of diphtheria and 2 of membranous croup have been notified. There has been 1 death. Medical men may have deposits from infected throats examined gratuitously by the Professor of Bacteriology at the University of Birmingham, and swabs for that purpose can be had on application to the Sanitary Inspector or myself. A few medical men avail themselves of this aid to diagnosis, and the reports thus obtained are of great benefit. The percentage of deaths is low, in some of the cases notified great difficulty has been experienced in persuading the patients of their own danger or of the danger they run of spreading the disorder. There is, however, often considerable difficulty in differentiating diphtheria from other throat

affections, hence the advantage of sending up to Birmingham a swab of the deposit for bacteriological examination.

Deaths registered in the past ten years :

1898 .....	4 deaths	1903 .....	4 deaths
1899 .....	2 „	1904 .....	10 „
1900 .....	9 „	1905 .....	9 „
1901 .....	4 „	1906 .....	8 „
1902 .....	0 „	1907 .....	0 „

Average for ten years 5.0 deaths.

1908 ..... 1 death.

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### MEASLES.

During the year no deaths have been reported from measles. At no time has it been really very prevalent. During July there were a number of cases of German measles in the Dudley Port district, and I found it necessary to send back home several children who were attending school with the rash on them. As a rule I do not keep children away from school for more than three weeks after the rash has developed unless there is catarrh supervening. The great majority of the cases are children under school age. If measles breaks out in a family I only prohibit school attendance in the infants' schools, so many of the children in the higher grades have already suffered from measles in their earlier years and are consequently immune.

Number of deaths registered in the past ten years.

1898 .....	76 deaths	1903 .....	14 deaths
1899 .....	0 „	1904 .....	7 „
1900 .....	48 „	1905 .....	49 „
1901 .....	21 „	1906 .....	1 „
1902 .....	2 „	1907 .....	29 „

Average for ten years 24.7.

1908 ..... 0 deaths,



## WHOOPIING COUGH.

Fifteen fatal cases have been reported. At no time has it been epidemic. No child is allowed into school who has been suffering from whooping cough until the characteristic cough has disappeared.

Deaths registered in the past ten years :

1898 .....	4 deaths	1903 .....	4 deaths
1899 .....	2 „	1904 .....	10 „
1900 .....	9 „	1905 .....	9 „
1901 .....	4 „	1906 .....	8 „
1902 .....	0 „	1907 .....	0 „

Average deaths for ten years 5.0.

Number of deaths in 1908 ..... 15

## TYPHOID FEVER.

During the year ~~42~~<sup>44</sup> cases have been notified, 24 have been removed to the hospital, and 7 have died. The outbreak at Horsley Heath, to which reference has been already made, is the only one of importance that we have had to deal with. It is impossible for us ever to be quite free from Typhoid Fever. Poverty and filth usually go hand in hand, and the great majority of our cases have been amongst the very poor. Insanitation has been—if not the prime cause—the main cause of its spread. All have had pure water, their milk supply has been good, and there has been no overcrowding, but in many cases the air has been found vitiated by drains improperly or insufficiently cleansed, and a want of personal and house cleanliness which no amount of care on the part of a landlord could abolish. The affected areas have been opened out, the drainage improved, in some cases w.c.'s have replaced the privys, and other necessary steps have been adopted to improve the sanitary surroundings of the infected houses.



Number of deaths registered in the past ten years:

1898 .....	5 deaths	1903 .....	7 deaths
1899 .....	8 „	1904 .....	10 „
1900 .....	12 „	1905 .....	5 „
1901 .....	8 „	1906 .....	16 „
1902 .....	9 „	1907 .....	9 „

Average in ten years 8.9.

Deaths in 1908 ..... 7

N.B.—It should be noted that five of the notified cases were in one house.

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### SMALL POX AND VACCINATION.

No case of small pox has been notified. The last case that we had was in 1895, which was imported, and its spread prevented by prompt isolation. In an adjoining parish we have the South Staffordshire Small Pox Hospital, to which we contribute, and in it there is ample accommodation for isolating any cases that we may send. Our children are but imperfectly protected, the majority having been vaccinated in one place only. The new Vaccination Act has been very detrimental to vaccination, it is so easy for exemption orders to be obtained. I think, however, that a small pox scare would frighten many mothers, and that some who are careless now would then have their children properly protected by vaccination.

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### EPIDEMIC INFLUENZA.

Three deaths have been reported from influenza or its complications. This has now become practically an epidemic disease. There has not, however, been an epidemic of it during the year, and the type of the disease is not so severe as it formerly was.

Number of deaths registered in the past ten years:

1898 .....	4 deaths	1903 .....	10 deaths
1899 .....	5 „	1904 .....	5 „
1900 .....	9 „	1905 .....	10 „
1901 .....	13 „	1906 .....	5 „
1902 .....	5 „	1907 .....	0 „

Average for ten years 6.6.

1908 ..... 3 deaths.

## DIARRHŒA AND ENTERITIS.

Twenty-seven deaths have been registered from diarrhœa and 20 from enteritis, making a total of 47 deaths from intestinal disorders. Twenty-two were infants under one year of age, and 17 between the ages of one and five years of age. Practically one half of the deaths are infants under one year of age. This suggests improper feeding, and doubtless in some cases this is the cause. Mothers in Tipton as a rule nurse their children, often until dentition is well advanced. It is a legend that "the two milks will not agree" and consequently tinned milk is frequently given when the maternal supply is short. It is impossible to give any one reason why intestinal disorders are so prevalent with infants, it is quite possible that during the hot weather the fœtid emanations from the ground may aggragate, if not cause, the maladies. When dentition begins scalded bread and sugar are frequently given as food. I do not find that starchy patent foods are now given to the extent that they were formerly, but potatoes are given at a very early age. It is very noticeable the improvement that takes place when such children are sent to the hospital or workhouse, where they have the advantage of suitable food and proper hygienic surroundings.

Number of deaths registered from the two causes separately:

	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908
Diarrhœa ...	42	31	16	9	21	35	33	21	27
Enteritis ...	31	29	25	16	31	5	28	9	20

Number of deaths during past ten years from two diseases combined:

1898 .....	14 deaths	1903 .....	25 deaths
1899 .....	3 ,,	1904 .....	52 ,,
1900 .....	73 ,,	1905 .....	40 ,,
1901 .....	60 ,,	1906 .....	61 ,,
1902 .....	41 ,,	1907 .....	30 ,,

Average for ten years 39.1 deaths.

1908 ..... 47 deaths.

## PHTHISIS AND CONSUMPTION.

The infectious nature of phthisis is becoming much more generally recognised, and more care is being taken to prevent any intimate connection between the sick and the healthy. The recognised chronicity of the disease in the affected patients makes isolation impossible, and there is great difficulty in making patients regularly disinfect their sputum. The Poor Law medical officers and the superintending officers of institutions have certain duties as to notification, etc., imposed upon them by the **Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1908**. Probably in time this will lead to more practical steps being taken to deal with tuberculosis generally on sanitary grounds, it will allow the Medical Officer of Health to know if any one particular area in his district is more affected than another with tubercular affections, and he will be able to use what powers he has to deal with it. Our district is very free from tuberculosis, a fact which has forcibly struck me during my examination of the school children.

Number of deaths recorded in the past ten years:

1898 ..... 17 deaths	1903 ..... 18 deaths
1899 ..... 25   ,,	1904 ..... 26   ,,
1900 ..... 17   ,,	1905 ..... 18   ,,
1901 ..... 14   ,,	1906 ..... 15   ,,
1902 ..... 18   ,,	1907 ..... 21   ,,

Average for ten years, 18.9.

1908 ..... 15 deaths.

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## SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK DONE.

A perusal of Table VI. shews that exclusive of the sanitary examinations and reports made by myself, 1,095 inspections and observations have been made by the Sanitary Inspector, 442 defects have been found, 370 informal notices have been given by him for the abatement of nuisances, and 97 formal notices have been sent from the Council; 488 nuisances have been abated, and 21 still remain on the books; 7 lots of infected bedding have been disinfected or destroyed, 7 houses and 7 schools have been disinfected after an outbreak of infectious disease.

During the year I have inspected and reported upon the sanitary condition of 187 houses, and have made a house



to house inspection of Dale Street, Holland Street, and Nock Street. In August, accompanied by the Sanitary Inspector, I made a house to house inspection of every house in Horsley Heath that was included in the area infected by typhoid fever. I have attended many meetings with the chairman and inspector when it was considered advisable that any particularly stringent steps should be taken. I have analysed one specimen of suspected water, and on several occasions have made inspection of the meat supply in the markets. Two cases of stale food have been referred to me, one of meat and one of fish, which were duly reported to the Council.

My thanks are due to the Sanitary Inspector for the able way in which he has assisted me, and to Mr. Stockdale and Mr. Jukes for valuable information most readily afforded when required.

TABLE SHOWING THE CAUSES OF AND NUMBER OF DEATHS.  
DURING THE YEAR.

	Total at all ages.	Und'r 1 year	1 and und'r 5	5 and und'r 15	15 & und'r 25	25 & und'r 65	Over 65
Scarlet Fever ... ..	3 deaths		3				
Whooping Cough ... ..	15 "	4	9		2		
Diphtheria (including Membran- neous Croup ... ..)	1 "			1			
Croup ... ..	1 "		1				
Enteric Fever ... ..	7 "				2	4	1
Epidemic Influenza ... ..	3 "	1				2	
Diarrhoea ... ..	27 "	15	11				1
Enteritis ... ..	20 "	12	6				
Puerperal Fever ... ..	1 "						
Erysipelas ... ..	4 "			1		2	1
Phthisis, (Pulmonary Tuber- culosis) ... ..	15 "		1	1	3	10	
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	18 "	5	7	3		2	1
Cancer, Malignant Disease ...	15 "					9	6
Bronchitis ... ..	60 "	17	12	2	2	13	14
Pneumonia ... ..	23 "	5	5	1	2	8	2
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of Liver ...	3 "					3	
Premature Birth ... ..	22 "	22					
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition ... ..	2 "					2	
Heart Diseases ... ..	43 "	1	1	2	2	22	15
Accidents ... ..	11 "	2		1	1	6	1
Suicides ... ..	1 "					1	
All other Causes ... ..	179 "	53	16	8	4	37	61
TOTAL ... ..	474 deaths	137	72	20	18	124	103



TABLE SHEWING THE VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1908 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR.	Population estimated in middle of each Year.	BIRTHS*		TOTAL DEATHS REGIS- TERED IN THE DISTRICT				TOTAL DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS	Deaths of Non-resid'ts regist'ed in Public In- stitut'ns in the District	Death of Resid'ts reg- ist'd in Public Institu- tions beyond District	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT	
		Number	Rate	Under 1 Y'r of age		At all Ages					Number	Rate*
				Number	Rate per 1000 B'ths registered	Number	Rate*					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1898	30,000	1085	35.01	226	208	637	21.2				637	21.2
1899	30,000	1200	39.34	242	201	599	19.6				599	19.6
1900	31,000	1081	34.87	181	167	628	20.2				628	20.2
1901	30,543	1155	37.72	167	147	476	15.5				476	15.5
1902	31,000	1122	36.01	175	147	535	17.2	8			535	17.2
1903	31,250	1137	36.38	144	126	448	14.3	4			448	14.3
1904	31,250	1144	36.31	186	161	558	17.7	4			558	15.7
1905	31,250	1072	34.30	143	133	472	15.1	1			475	17.16
1906	31,250	1112	36.50	174	156	460	14.7			3	461	14.7
1907	33,000	1094	33.50	121	110	447	13.5	2		1 2	449	13.3
Average's for years 1898- 1907	31,054	1120	35.99	175	155	526	16.9				528	
1908	33,000	1150	<del>35.2</del> 34.8	137	119	474	14.3	5		1	475	14.3

\*Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Total population at all ages ... 1901... 30,543  
Number of inhabited houses ... 6 283  
Average number of persons per house ... 4.86

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1908.

	At all Ages	U'd'r 1 year	1 and und'r 5	5 and und'r 15	15 & und'r 25	25 & und'r 65	Over 65	Cases removed to Hospit'l	D'ths
Diphtheria ...	43		8	14	10	11		0	1
Membranous Croup ...	2		1	1				0	.
Erysipelas ...	40	1	2	4	6	23	4	0	.
Scarlet Fever ...	48	2	14	30	2			30	3
Enteric Fever (Typhoid) ...	44		4	9	9	21	1	24	7
Puerperal Fever ...	3				1	2		0	1
TOTALS ...	180	3	29	58	28	57	5	54	

# INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1908.

*Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.*

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
ALL CAUSES	Certified ...	34	3	10	3	50	18	7	13	9	7	6	...	5	5	6	7	133
	Uncertified ...	3	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	4
<i>Common Infectious Diseases—</i>																		
	Small-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Chicken-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	5
<i>Diarrhæal Diseases—</i>																		
	Diarrhœa, all forms... ..	...	...	1	...	1	1	1	3	2	3	3	...	...	2	...	...	16
	Enteritis, Muco-enteritis, Gastro-enteritis ...	...	1	...	1	2	2	...	2	2	...	1	...	...	1	...	1	11
	Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
<i>Wasting Diseases—</i>																		
	Premature Birth ...	16	1	2	1	20	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
	Congenital defects ...	10	...	...	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
	Injury at Birth ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Want of Breast-milk, Starvation ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	4	...	4	...	8	3	3	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	17
<i>Tuberculous Diseases—</i>																		
	Tuberculous Meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
	Tuberculous Peritonitis: Tabes Mesenterica ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	4
	Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2
<i>Other Causes—</i>																		
	Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Syphilis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Rickets ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Meningitis (not Tuberculous) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Convulsions ...	...	...	1	1	2	4	...	4	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	13
	Bronchitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	1	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	11
	Laryngitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	3	1	...	...	2	...	...	7
	Suffocation, overlying	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Other Causes...	7	1	2	...	10	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	17
		37	3	10	3	53	18	7	13	9	7	6	...	5	5	7	7	137

*Deaths from all Causes and Ages, 474.*

*Population, 33,000.*

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
**SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER,**

A. S. UNDERHILL, M.D., D.P.H.,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1908.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Tipton  
Education Committee.*

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GREAT BRIDGE,

*January, 1909.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my first annual report as your School Medical Officer. Since my appointment nearly twelve months ago, I have visited and inspected each school under your authority and as far as I have been able, have examined each child between the ages of 5 and 7, and a few of the children who are expected to leave school before Christmas. The eye sight has not been tested in every school. This examination I postponed until a later date, but shall complete before July 31st, 1909, in order to comply with the provisions of the recent Code from the Education Department, which requires full examination of all children admitted into school after July 31st, 1908, and of all children who are likely to leave school before August 1st, 1909. I have not examined infants under 5 years of age, as these have not yet attained the legal school age. The great difficulty in dealing with the unhealthy conditions of children is how to get mothers to appreciate what is required and how to persuade them to carry out any suggestions that are made to them. There are several institutions in the district, where the



more important methods of cure may be obtained. The Guest Hospital, with a special Eye Department, the Dudley Dispensary, with a special extension Eye Department; the West Bromwich District Hospital, with a special Eye and Teeth Department; and the Birmingham Hospitals, all of which have facilities for every known malady. But there is a great want for home treatment by skilled nurses of the numerous minor ailments, such as ringworm, skin diseases under medical supervision; "dirty" heads, where it is practically impossible for unskilled mothers to kill the "nits"; eye diseases, where lotion, etc., have to be used, besides many other diseases, which tend to prevent regular attendance at school. These can be cured at home, and I would suggest that some arrangements be made with the committees of the local branches of the Staffordshire Nursing Association, whereby the services of their nurses, who are living in the parish, could be obtained. If I was empowered to send suitable cases to them for treatment, the percentage of verminous heads would soon fall to a minimum, and a great deal of unnecessary suffering would be spared the children. I think that for some small subscription the services of these nurses could be obtained, and I should strongly recommend that steps be taken to provide this desirable adjunct to what is being done for the good of the children.

From the appended tables it will be noticed that I have examined 1,335 children—672 are boys and 663 girls. I have tested the eyesight of 448 children—238 boys and 210 girls. Of these, defects have been found in 134 children—54 boys and 80 girls. No child under 6 years of age has been tested. In some of the cases where children have been between 6 and 7 years of age, I feel sure that a future examination will show a higher percentage of normal sight. Many of these children did not understand the capital letters, a few were too nervous to give proper answers, and some would guess and not seem to care how they answered. I feel, therefore, that the results at this early age should be taken with some reserve and that an allowance should be made for those special difficulties attendant upon the examination.

I have noted that very few children are affected with Tubercular Disease in any form, and experience shows that the district



generally is exceptionally free from all such affections. Tipton is situated at a high altitude. There are, comparatively, speaking, few slums. The supply of houses for the working classes is ample; there is but little overcrowding. House doors are kept invariably open. The water supply is ample and good. As a rule windows are made to open, and the children altogether have a far better chance for keeping free from tubercular disease than they have in the majority of the larger towns. It is true that enlarged glands have been found in and around the throat, but in many instances these are temporary, and due to carious teeth or other local causes of irritation. The condition of the teeth is deplorable; 849 were found to be suffering more or less from carious teeth, i.e., decayed. Of these a large percentage were children "shedding" their teeth, but in many, the permanent teeth were affected. Children do not understand the elements of teeth preservation, and probably not one has ever used any means for cleansing their teeth, a duty which devolves upon every mother who has any desire to promote the comfort and health of her children.

The general cleanliness of the children leaves much to be desired. Some children were so filthy that I sent them home to be washed, as it did not seem to me to be fair that in their dirty and neglected condition they should mix with other children. This dirty condition of some children is a universal complaint made by all of the teachers, and I hope that the extra pressure now brought to bear upon parents will shame them into sending their children to school cleaner and less neglected. Of the boys I have noted 522 clean bodies, 47 very dirty, and 102 verminous. Of the girls 533 were clean, 36 very dirty, and 94 verminous. The cleanliness of their bodies varying as to the day in the week on which the inspection took place, and to some extent the general poverty of the immediate district. Very many of the children have boots in a very wretched and dilapidated condition, they come to school on wet days, and have to sit through lessons with soaked feet, having practically no protection. My idea is that Boot Funds are more urgently required than any other charitable funds for children, and that money thus expended would be most beneficial. Many children would be much better off without boots than wearing the apologies that many are wearing now. I have

found, however, that some of the cleanest and most carefully tended of the children have been from the poorest homes.

Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids have been frequently met with, in all 151 cases have been noted. Where the cases have been severe and I have considered that surgical interference was required, I have sent word to the mother advising her to consult her own medical man, or to take the child to a hospital. I have heard that many cases have been operated upon, and that in others the children were put under treatment.

The Hearing and Speech of the children has been very good and call for no comment.

The Mental Condition of the children is quite up to a good average. I have, of necessity, been guided in these matters by the teachers, and have, as a rule, accepted their opinion. In exceptional cases, I have made more special inquiries. The result of my observation is that children are found to be—

- (a) Bright, i.e., exceptionally gifted; boys, 295; girls, 331.
- (b) Fair, i.e., ordinary children; boys, 292; girls, 264.
- (c) Dull, i.e., decidedly below average: boys, 81; girls, 68.
- (d) Mentally deficient; 3.

As a rule the cleaner the child, the higher is their mental capacity.

Ringworm and other Skin Troubles.—I have notes on a few cases. Some of these had been excluded previously from school by the teachers. The children not previously excluded I have sent away from school for treatment. All cases of Ringworm and many skin affections are contagious, and are a source of danger to other children.

In order to classify in a manner for easy reference I have taken from my cards the following tables of statistics. I have the particulars tabulated from each school in my office, but as yet I have not had sufficient experience in school life to make it of any material advantage to publish them.

The boys and girls are generally well nourished, even in the poorest schools. I have classified them as very good, good, or normal, Boys 648, Girls 631; below normal, Boys 24, Girls 32.

This result speaks well for the treatment meted out by the parents to their children at home, and palliates any adverse criticism raised by noting the want of cleanliness observed in so many cases.

For future use in establishing a record, I have classified the height and weight of the children at school age, noting the conditions at the various ages. I do not yet know how they compare with children in similarly situated districts. nor do I think that any statistics have been published. but in time such will be published, and I do not think that we shall compare unfavourably with any place.

Deformities are not common. I have notes of four boys and three girls. Two were from spinal diseases, and a suitable appliance was worn in each case. No child should be without proper surgical appliances. In the district, as I have previously remarked, there are many institutions which supply all such, either free of charge or at so small a sum as to be within easy reach of the poorest parent.

The number of cases of Verminous Heads in some of the classes leaves much to be desired. Girls, with long hair, are the greatest sufferers. Out of a total of 663 girls' heads examined, 177 were found to be verminous. Of the boys, 672 were examined, and only 48 were verminous; 14 were found with very dirty heads, said to be due to the games which they played. A very large percentage of the boys had their hair cut short. 610 boys' heads are noted clean, and 485 girls' heads clean.

Although parents have notice given to them as to the time and place of the medical inspection very few avail themselves of the opportunity of being present. In one case only was any objection raised. Several mothers were angry at receiving notice that their children were sent dirty or verminous to school, and when their attention has been called to any defect requiring surgical or medical treatment a few mothers have come for further information, but as a rule they have accepted the examination as part of the routine school work, and have taken no particular notice about it.



During the year there has not been any outbreak of epidemic disease of sufficient magnitude to interfere with the school attendance. During July, there were several cases of German measles. These, were, however, very mild. On one morning I sent away several children with the rash well developed. They did not seem to be at all unwell with it.

I am pleased to state that Mr. Richards the Secretary, and all the Teachers have given me every possible assistance during my inspection, and I have had from them very much useful information about the children. My visits, of necessity, must upset their daily work, and the preliminary enquiries, including the measuring and weighing of the children takes up much of their time. All has, however, been undertaken in a most satisfactory manner, and I am glad to be able to tender them my thanks.

Yours faithfully,

A. S. UNDERHILL,

*School Medical Officer.*



*Kudampanam*  
*Chattampi*

X

TABLES SHOWING IN AN ACCESSIBLE FORM THE  
DETAILS REQUIRED BY THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN EXAMINED 1335.

Boys 672.

Girls 663.

Table showing Average height and weight of each Child examined.

						Average height.		Average weight.
						ft.	ins.	lbs.
Boys between 5 and 6 years examined						3	4 $\frac{3}{4}$	38 $\frac{1}{2}$
"	"	6	"	7	"	3	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	41
"	"	7	"	8	"	3	7 $\frac{3}{4}$	43 $\frac{1}{4}$
"	"	8	"	9	"	3	10	50 $\frac{3}{4}$
"	"	9	"	10	"	3	10	48 $\frac{1}{4}$
"	"	10	"	11	"	4	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	72
"	"	11	"	12	"	4	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	66
"	"	12	"	13	"	4	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	66 $\frac{3}{4}$
"	"	13	"	14	"	4	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	74 $\frac{1}{4}$
"	"	14	"	15	"	4	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	74 $\frac{1}{2}$
Girls between 4 and 5 years examined						3	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	37 $\frac{1}{2}$
"	"	5	"	6	"	3	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	38 $\frac{1}{2}$
"	"	6	"	7	"	3	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	40 $\frac{1}{4}$
"	"	7	"	8	"	3	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	42 $\frac{1}{4}$
"	"	8	"	9	"	3	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	49 $\frac{1}{4}$
"	"	9	"	10	"	3	11	49 $\frac{3}{4}$
"	"	10	"	11	"	—		—
"	"	11	"	12	"	4	4 $\frac{1}{4}$	67 $\frac{1}{2}$
"	"	12	"	13	"	4	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	69 $\frac{1}{2}$
"	"	13	"	14	"	4	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$
"	"	14	"	15	"	4	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	64 $\frac{1}{2}$

BOYS.		
NUTRITION.		
Normal	...	274
V.G. and Good		374
Below Normal		24
		672
HEAD.		
Clean	...	610
Dirty	...	14
Verminous	...	48
		672

GIRLS.		
NUTRITION.		
Normal	...	243
V.G. and Good		388
Below Normal		32
		663
HEAD.		
Clean	...	485
Dirty	...	1
Verminous	...	177
		663

## BOYS.

BODY.			
Clean	...	522	
Dirty	...	47	
Verminous	...	102	
			<hr/>
			671
			<hr/>

## TONSILS.

Normal	...	603	
Enlarged	...	68	
			<hr/>
			671
			<hr/>

## ADENOIDS.

12 Cases.

## VISION.

Examined	...	238	
Below Normal		54	
			<hr/>
			184
			<hr/>

## TEETH.

Normal	...	226	
Carious	...	435	
			<hr/>
			671
			<hr/>

## MENTAL CONDITION.

Bright	...	295	
Fair	...	292	
Dull	...	81	
			<hr/>
			668
			<hr/>
1 Very defective			
2 Imbeciles			

## DEFORMITIES.

Deformed	...	4	
Spinal Disease		2	
1 wears support.			
Right hand crooked		1	
(small fingers).			
Pigeon Breasted		2	
Wry Neck	...	1	
Flattened Nose		1	
Chest contracted		1	

## GIRLS.

BODY.			
Clean	...	533	
Dirty	...	36	
Verminous	...	94	
			<hr/>
			663
			<hr/>

## TONSILS.

Normal	...	608	
Enlarged	...	55	
			<hr/>
			663
			<hr/>

## ADENOIDS.

22 Cases.

## VISION.

Examined	...	210	
Below Normal		80	
			<hr/>
			130
			<hr/>

## TEETH.

Normal	...	249	
Carious	...	414	
			<hr/>
			663
			<hr/>

## MENTAL CONDITION.

Bright	...	331	
Fair	...	264	
Dull	...	68	
			<hr/>
			663
			<hr/>

## DEFORMITIES.

Deformed	...	3	
Facial Paralysis		1	
Small for age		1	
Large great right toe		1	



## SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

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INSPECTOR'S OFFICE,

OWEN STREET, TIPTON,

*January, 1909.*

### REMOVAL OF NIGHT SOIL AND ASHES.

During the year our men have been kept busy in both branches of this work, having visited 12586 houses, and removed from 8221 privy cesspits, excremental refuse. I do not remember at any time when reasonable complaints were fewer, and greater attention paid, nor the district in a cleaner condition than now. Great care is exercised among our small properties that no accumulation is allowed to exist. I have adopted a system whereby our principal men report to me many times during the week of any premises visited which require a visit, so that notification by property owners and occupiers is becoming less year by year. The men employed removing ashes have been greatly assisted by the extra gang allowed by the Council, so that the amount of ashpit refuse, now, anywhere in our District is small. My greatest difficulty in coping with this class of work is the lack of uniformity in the size of the receptacles for holding ashes and house refuse generally. Still, our people are as well served, if not better, than many towns of similar dimensions, and whose geographical position is not so awkward to work. Our men have visited 6577 houses, and emptied 6502 ashpits during the year, and as we compute that there are over 7,304 houses or thereabouts, our hands are always full, and this does not include factories and workshops. Our places of deposit are becoming scarce, the old marlholes being filled up, and waste land suitable for our purpose is not always available. Everything in this connection point to a Destructor, as an innovation of the future to be provided by our Council.

### NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND DISINFECTION.

During the year 179 notifications of infectious diseases have been received. Each case and premises are visited, and a report of the sanitary condition of house and premises taken, disinfectants

supplied, and where the people are poor soap is given so that bed-clothing, room floors, etc., may receive an antiseptic dressing. 30 cases of Scarlet Fever and 24 cases of Typhoid Fever have been removed to the Hospital for Infectious Diseases, and this is done entirely by the Council's staff. A new set of harness has been bought for one of our horses, so that the nurse and myself go with the ambulance, taking with us sufficient blankets for the warmth and comfort of the patients, who are removed with every care possible. This change has the warm approval of the people generally, which is shown by the fact that in one case only did the people refuse when I suggested removal, and as this case was not strong enough to go before the magistrates, the matter was allowed to slide, but kept under strict supervision by the sanitary officers. The whole of the Day Schools have been disinfected this year. 365 sulphur candles were used in 89 class rooms, etc. If this took place every year it would be an advantage in many ways.

Tuberculosis is now a notifiable disease under certain conditions.

#### PETROLEUM ACTS.

We have on our register nine Petroleum License Holders. The premises are visited from time to time, and they comply with the Acts.

#### DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILKSHOPS.

The question of a pure milk supply, which is of the utmost importance to the well-being of our people, young and old, is a matter in which the interest of sanitary officials never tire. During the year many visits have been made to the cowsheds in our District, and there is very much one desires to see by way of improvements that the Council have decided to have drawn up a placard showing what ought and what ought not to be done that the cows may breathe pure air, and exist in wholesome surroundings. Whatever may be the outcome of this, one thing is certain, namely, that the regulations of the Council must be adhered to or prosecutions will take place.

The number of Cowsheds on our register is 50

„ „ Milkshops „ „ „ 40

### SLAUGHTER-HOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION.

The slaughterhouses in our parish are usually well kept, but very few are able to comply with the Council's regulations owing to the fact that so little land is under cultivation, making it difficult to dispose of the manure and offal. Hence, having to store it near to buildings, nuisances are created when removed. There is, however, a desire on the part of the occupiers to comply with the law. One new slaughterhouse has been erected during the year, and licensed for twelve months. Plans have been passed for another, and this, too, will only be licensed for one year. The Council only pass new plans after considerable attention being paid to them. A public slaughterhouse is very desirable, and would be advantageous in many ways, supervision would be secured, and the public better safeguarded. I desire to acknowledge the ready help given to me by the Medical Officer of Health, at all times, night or day, either inspecting slaughterhouses or markets. Number of slaughterhouses on our register is 25.

### BAKEHOUSES.

The Bakehouses are usually kept in a fairly clean condition, and the bread prepared in wholesome places. Several suggestions have been made to occupiers during the year, and often acted upon, such as removing all articles not actually required, as these harbour dust, and when removed find its way into the flour (very few people want to eat their peck too soon); the providing of castors to the legs of the bread troughs, so that to move them is an easy matter. The repaving of the floors with smooth impervious material, to clean it is a matter which presents no difficulty. Already many improvements have taken place. The number of bakehouses on our register is 22.

### HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES ACT.

During the year much useful work has been done, many houses being repaired, limewashed, and repapered. Unfortunately, I have been compelled to summon owners of property in Leabrook and Upper Church Lane. In the first-mentioned case, the houses have been renovated throughout at very considerable cost. In the second case, the house has since been demolished. I have had to summon an owner for defective spouting in Aston



Street, and another for insufficient privy accommodation in Park Lane Passage. These proceedings are against my wish, but the work must be done, and the provisions of the Act carried out. The Special Committee appointed by the Council have made many inspections of various properties during the year devoting much of their time to this thankless task. I am personally thankful for the help and valuable assistance rendered by the Chairman of the Sanitary Committee at all times, and the support given to our recommendations. I regret very much that prosecutions must take place in the future, as several blocks of property are down on our books for attention.

#### CANAL BOATS' ACTS.

135 boats were inspected during the year; 10 complaint notes have been sent to various owners; 9 have been returned, leaving one contravention outstanding. The boats, on the whole, were fairly clean and habitable.

#### Summary of Infringements.

Marking ... ..	1
Dilapidation ... ..	1
Painting ... ..	1
Lettering ... ..	1
Without Certificates ... ..	2
Overcrowding ... ..	4
	—
	10
	—

Several persons were cautioned for minor infringements and a promise made not to repeat them. In one case I went to take out a summons, but at the last moment a promise was made (and since complied with) to remedy the defect. I was afterwards pleased that the summons was not issued, as the owner passed away just at the same time. No case of infectious disease or any obstruction met with. Owen J. Llewellyn, Esq., H.M. Chief Inspector, has made his annual inspection of the work done, which was to his entire satisfaction.

#### FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS' ACT, 1901.

The proper working of the Act has engaged considerable amount of time during the year. The number of workshops in

our district are kept in good condition ; in fact, they are improving each year. I had to summon one occupier for having insufficient privy accommodation The Court made an order, and the work was afterwards done. In another case I advised the owner to take down two privies. He complied, and built two new ones in their place. I have received a number of notices from H.M. Inspector respecting contraventions of Act during the year. Most of these have had or are receiving attention at the present time. We have little home work carried on in our district. What is in operation leaves little to complain of. No case of infectious disease has occurred in any of these homes during the year. I have received from other local authorities particulars of the outworkers who have materials to make up here, but no work has been sent from here elsewhere to my knowledge.

The number of Workshops on our register is ... 130  
,, ,, ,, Factories ,, ,, ,, ,, ... 57  
,, ,, ,, Workplaces ,, ,, ,, ,, .. 5

		NUMBER OF		ABATEMENT NOTICE		NUISANCES ABATED AFTER NOTICE BY	
		Inspection and Observations made	Defects found.	Inform'd by Inspector.	Formal by Authority	Inspector	Authority
House Drainage { Dwelling Houses and Schools	Foul Conditions ... ..	157	157	50	41	35	75
	Structural Defects ... ..	100	100	50	41	35	75
	Overcrowding ... ..	20	20	20	...	20	...
	Unfit for Habitation ... ..	15	15	15	15	...	15
	Dairies and Milkshops ... ..	120	...	...	...	...	...
	Cowsheds ... ..	120	...	...	...	...	...
	Bakehouses ... ..	100	...	6	...	6	...
	Slaughter houses ... ..	100	...	2	...	2	...
	Canal Boats ... ..	135	...	...	...	...	...
	Ashpits and Privies ... ..	150	150	150	...	150	...
	Deposits of Refuse & Manure ... ..	24	...	24	...	24	...
	Water Closets ... ..	12	...	12	...	12	...
	Defective Traps ... ..	8	...	8	...	8	...
	No Disconnection ... ..	12	...	12	...	12	...
	Pigsties ... ..	6	...	6	...	4	...
	Animals improperly kept ... ..	6	...	6	...	6	...
	Offensive Trades ... ..	1	...	...	...	...	...
	Smoke Nuisances ... ..	2	...	2	...	2	...
	Other Nuisances ... ..	7	...	7	...	7	...
		1095	442	370	97	323	165

Yours truly,  
CHAS. H. CLIFTON, C.S.I.  
(Asso. R. San. Inst.),  
Sanitary Inspector.

## SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

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DEAR SIR,

I have pleasure in forwarding you some particulars of the work carried out in my department during the year ending December 31st, 1908:—

Plans of New Houses approved by the Council	...	...	61
„ „ „ „ disapproved	„	...	4
„ „ Slaughterhouses approved	...	...	2
„ „ Alterations to existing houses	...	...	4
„ „ New Offices	...	...	2
„ „ „ Factory	...	...	1
„ „ „ Store Room	...	...	1
Connections to Sewers	...	...	20

Although no extensive works have been carried out, the year has been a very busy one, and the following matters have been dealt with by my own staff:—

### 1. **Paving of Portion of Carriageway in Eagle Lane.**

This is a decided improvement carried out at a comparatively small outlay. I am proposing to ask the Council for permission to extend this down to the entrance to Messrs. Roberts and Cooper's Works. Similar work has also been done in a portion of Coppice Street.

### 2. **Tree Planting in various Wards.**

More than 500 trees have been planted on the footpaths in Toll End, Ocker Hill, and Tipton Green districts, and the majority of them are thriving. It is suggested that the "dead" ones be replaced at once.

### 3. **Court 10, Horseley Heath.**

A very good improvement has been effected by purchasing and demolishing some of the insanitary property in this area, and a decided improvement has been made. All the existing properties have been properly connected to the Public Sewer, and a good open space provided, where formerly existed the unsightly and insanitary property which has caused so much trouble to the Council and Committees in the past.



#### 4. **House and Court Numbers.**

A complete revision of the House and Court Numbers has been made, and this has entailed a large amount of work, only known to those who have had to perform the same. It would have been an easy matter for this work to have cost at least £150, but I am pleased to say this has been avoided, for another few years at least, although when this work requires to be done again, it may be necessary to have a complete renumbering.

#### 5. **Eagle Street Restoration.**

This street has been put into a sanitary condition by the orders of the Council, and although the cost has not been very heavy, I am sure that the work has given entire satisfaction to all concerned. It can be truly said that it is at present one of the best streets in the parish, and must be considered a very great improvement on the old order of things in this street.

#### 6. **Cleansing of Brook Courses.**

A large amount of work has been done in the cleansing of the Brookcourses in the Parish, particularly in the Gold's Hill, Sheepwash Lane and Dudley Port districts. We have joined with the Mines Drainage Commissioners, and adjoining authorities in this work. Many complaints have been made as to the smells arising from the Brook at Great Bridge, but I am inclined to think that this may have arisen from another source unconnected with the brook. There is no doubt the course would be best arched over, and the Borough Surveyor of West Bromwich is preparing the necessary drawings and particulars for such work, and the same will be submitted to us for consideration when complete.

A good and permanent improvement has been made by the Asphalting of various Public Passages. I have had this material made at our own Depot, and although we have not got an up-to-date plant for this work, I find the cost comes out much less than if we purchased from elsewhere. I have also made experiments with "Tarmac," in Park Lane East, and Bradley Street, and am convinced that it will be to our advantage to seriously consider the question of using this material on all our roads. The cost of scavenging on these roads is comparatively nil, and the wear is really marvellous. A short length between the Public

Offices and the Goods Station was laid with this material over three years ago, and scarcely a trace of wear can be found on it at present. Like all other good roads it has unfortunately been disturbed by the Gas and Water Companies men, but this is a contingency that can scarcely be avoided in this parish. I am thoroughly convinced that by improving our Depot, and utilising the up-to-date methods of mixing and drying, this work could be carried out at a much less cost than what we are able to do at present. I am pleased to say the Council have appointed a Committee to go thoroughly into the whole question, and I am now engaged in getting out full particulars to place before them.

In the latter part of the year the question of the unemployed has had to be considered, and the Council have decided to start them on certain work which I recommended should be done by them, and so far I am perfectly satisfied that the work done at the various places will be found permanently beneficial. I am, however, sorry to find the number is continually increasing. I have now over 350 names on my book, and these are being engaged in batches of thirty for three days in each week. Now that we have obtained the sanction of the Local Government Board to the loan for Sewage Outfall Works, I am hoping that many of these will find employment under the Contractor who has the work to carry out. Up to the present we have not received the sanction to loan for New Sewers. When we have done so, there may be some overflow drains which could be put in by the unemployed at a cost not exceeding my estimate for the same, and this will probably be sanctioned by the Committee to alleviate the present distress, which is a most serious matter at present for the Council to deal with, and I am sure all will hope that the present year will bring **more** work and prosperity to these deserving cases.

I am, Yours very truly,

W. H. JUKES,

Engineer and Surveyor.

January 4th, 1909.





